

**August 8, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**Detroit Free Press: Guilty plea OK for Michigan woman in husband's death**

"The Michigan appeals court has reinstated the murder conviction of a Bay County woman who repeatedly shot her husband in the back. A judge had allowed Rebecca Shimel to withdraw her guilty plea to second-degree murder, saying her lawyer was ineffective. But the appeals court overturned that decision in an opinion released Wednesday."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**The Detroit News: Guilty plea OK for Bay County woman in husband's death**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: Guilty plea OK for Mich. woman in husband's death**

[Full story](#)

**Bay City Times: Michigan Court of Appeals upholds Bay City woman's guilty plea in husband's fatal shooting**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Man who tried to swallow cyanide held in Wisconsin after missing Michigan court dates**

"Authorities say a man who tried to swallow cyanide in court in 2012 after being sentenced for polluting a Lake Huron bay is being held in Wisconsin after missing Michigan court dates.... [Scotlund Stivers] was charged with endangering Cheboygan County courtroom personnel after authorities say he tried to swallow cyanide from a vial."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

**Cheboygan Daily Tribune: Stivers arrested in Wisconsin after skipping sentencing**

[Full story](#)

**Ann Arbor Chronicle: Trial Court Software Gets Initial Approval**

"After a lengthy, often convoluted debate, Washtenaw County commissioners gave initial approval to the selection of a new record-keeping software system for the Washtenaw County Trial Court that's estimated to cost \$2.3 million. The vote took place at the ways & means committee meeting of the board of commissioners on Aug. 7, 2013. However, the resolution did not garner sufficient votes for final approval, and will be considered again on Sept. 4."

[Full story](#)

**The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Court ruling provides vindication and cash**

"The Galien school district has won a court battle against the Michigan Department of Education over alleged erroneous student counts, but that doesn't mean the schools will reopen.... Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina ruled in the districts' favor in July. She ordered the MDE and state school Superintendent Mike Flanagan to reimburse \$750,000 to Galien and \$1.5 million to Delton-Kellogg, which had to cut programs and staff after the MDE decision."

[Full story](#)

**Hometown Life Newspapers: Drivers can pay Detroit tickets at Garden City court**

"A new program gives people with outstanding traffic tickets in Detroit's 36th District Court the option to pay them at suburban Wayne County courts, including Garden City's 21st District Court. Judge Richard Hammer Jr. views the new program, which started July 1, as beneficial to Garden City residents. He expects it also will help the financially troubled Detroit court with collections because of the convenience the Out County Collections Program offers."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson Citizen Patriot: City Hall ought to accept defeat with the demise of Jackson's illegal "rain tax"**

The editorial states "It was no great surprise to see Jackson's 'storm water fee' struck down in court Aug. 2. The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled the fee is really a tax, and because it was enacted without a public vote, it is an illegal tax."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: City Of Jackson Stays Quiet While Waiting For Storm Fee Decision**

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Pilot program helps in settling landlord disputes**

"Larry Socie is sitting in a downtown corner office in the United Way building in downtown Jackson. It's not unlike the rooms in which Socie works as a volunteer mediator for a landlord-tenant dispute resolution pilot program run out of Jackson County 12th District Court Judge Darryl Mazur's courtroom."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Court nixes \$28K penalty for \$500 post-retirement paycheck**

"... [Ingham County Circuit Court Judge William] Collette called the \$28K+ penalty 'arbitrary and capricious,' which is a nice way of saying the ORS was making things up as it was going along. The judge held that [Claudia] Whitsitt should pay back the \$532.28 she improperly earned [a part-time teaching assignment]. The Court of Appeals affirmed."

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Two appointed to Wayne County Circuit Court**

"A prosecutor and a litigator have been appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to Wayne County Circuit Court, filling the vacancies of Judge Deborah Ross Adams, who was removed by the Michigan Supreme Court, and Judge Wendy Baxter, who resigned. Charles S. Hegarty of Bodman PLC takes Adams' spot.... Qiana D. Lillard, an assistant Wayne County prosecuting attorney [takes Baxter's spot.] ... Both appointees must seek election in November 2014 to serve the remainder of terms ending Jan. 1, 2019."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **SBM Blog: Snyder Makes Two Judicial Appointments**

[Full story](#)

### **MLive.com: Michigan appeals court upholds right of local governments to set alcohol sales limits**

"Local governments can set limits on alcohol sales through zoning regulations, the Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed Tuesday. The opinion upheld a Bloomfield Township zoning regulation that set limits on package alcohol sales at gas stations as being permissible under state law."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Court suggests it might allow hit man to testify**

"The Michigan appeals court suggested Tuesday it might order a judge to hear testimony of a Detroit hit man who has said he's willing to speak publicly and exonerate a young man imprisoned for four killings. The three-judge panel didn't make an immediate decision, but comments from the bench during arguments seemed encouraging for Davontae Sanford, who has been trying to untie a guilty plea that will keep him in prison for decades."

[Full story](#)

### **The Romeo Observer: MI Court of Appeals upholds Hevel nut ban**

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has supported the actions taken by Romeo Community Schools to prohibit nuts from an elementary building. The court upheld a decision made by the Macomb County Circuit Court to throw out a lawsuit against the school district implementing a nut ban at Hevel Elementary."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The Macomb Daily: Romeo mom says court wrong in peanut ban ruling**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.**

### **Oakland County Legal News: Parent upset over school nut ban loses lawsuit**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: In Memoriam: Hon. Michael A. Martone, Jr.**

"The Hon. Michael A. Martone, Jr., of Rochester Hills, died August 1 at the age of 66. He was a graduate of the Detroit College of Law and served as judge of the 52nd District Court of Michigan until December 2010."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Ex- Meijer attorney wants intervention**

"The former Meijer Inc. attorney who faces ethics charges for his role in two Acme Township elections will attempt to avoid facing judgment by a panel of his peers. Timothy Stoecker, of Grand Rapids, asked the Michigan Supreme Court to intervene and dismiss ethics charges that could cost him his law license. His hearing before a panel of three lawyers from Kent County has been postponed pending a decision."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **The MiLW Blog: Former Meijer lawyer asks Supreme Court to intervene in disciplinary proceedings**

[Full story](#)

### **WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Fmr. Justice Diane Hathaway reports to federal prison on Tuesday**

"Former State Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway will report to federal prison next Tuesday, 7 Action News has learned. Hathaway will begin serving a 12-month and 1 day sentence in Alderson, West Virginia at a campus-like women's facility nicknamed 'Camp Cupcake.' It's housed high-profile inmates like Martha Stewart and former Detroit City Council President Monica Conyers."

[Full story](#)